

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
September 8, 2011

Present: Knox (chair), Ames, Milius, Walton (staff), Hultgren (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m.

The minutes of the July 14, 2011 meeting were accepted.

Walton reported that the two trash containers to be tested out along Hunting Lodge Road will be anchored along the road later this fall. A part time employee continues to collect litter on the Hunting Lodge/North Eagleville Road corridor.

Walton stated that electronics generated from the municipal buildings will now be collected by the vendor that is used for residential electronics and paid through the solid waste fund. The vendor recycling residential electronics has been approved by the State of Connecticut under the new electronics recycling law; whereas, the vendor that the maintenance department has been using has not been approved.

Walton provided Big Y and Grand Union with laminated plastic bag recycling labels for the store's recycling containers and for placement in other strategic locations. Big Y stated that they fill a 100 gallon bag of plastic bags every other day. Grand Union said that they ship about ten 30 gallon bags of grocery bags and shrink wrap per week. It was suggested that the plastic bag label is included in the October trash bill inserts.

According to Walton, multi-family owners/managers have been notified that the Town of Mansfield will begin actively enforcing the solid waste regulations where there is little or no recycling activity. The Town Attorney is reviewing the solid waste ordinance for the best approach to issuing citations.

A position for a composting program assistant has been posted through the UConn work study program. Since there has been no interest in the job, Hultgren proposed that the solid waste fund support an assistant working four hours per week at \$10 per hour for the school year.

The Festival on the Green is scheduled for Sunday, September 25, 2011 from 12 to 5 pm. Five waste stations, instead of six, will be set up at the Festival. Ames volunteered to help with set-up. Knox volunteered to help with a waste station from 4 to 5 pm and weighing the waste at the end. It was noted that much of last year's waste was Starbucks coffee cups. It was suggested that we provide Starbucks customers with compostable coffee cups. Walton will check Starbucks' interest in supplying compostable coffee cups to their customers for the duration of the Festival.

Hultgren presented the idea of eliminating cash transactions at the transfer station. A number of Connecticut transfer stations accept only credit cards or pre-paid cards. Staff will gather information on pre-paid cards and invite a representative from one of these towns to attend an upcoming meeting.

Periodically Walton receives requests for paper shredding services as there are few options for shredding large quantities of paper. After a little research, she has found that several Connecticut municipalities offer paper shredding. The committee suggested finding out if Staples, Eastbrook Mall or one of the banks will host a paper shredding event first. If not, then residents will be surveyed in the October trash bill insert for their interest in a

paper shredding event. It was agreed that charging \$2 to \$5 per box is fair.

One of the swap shop volunteers asked if a “No Shirt, No Shoes, No Shopping” sign could be posted at the transfer station. The committee decided that a “No Shoes, No Shopping” sign is appropriate.

Walton reported that the trash collector, Diane Mitchell who handles 2/3 of the Mansfield routes, collected an extra 14.75 tons of waste the two weeks following hurricane Irene, presumably spoiled food. Walton will report this in the trash bill inserts and include ways to prevent waste. Staff was directed to find out what other communities did with the food waste from the storm.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator